

# ALLEY SG – April 11<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Bible Story:** On the Road to Emmaus • *Luke 24:13-35*

**Conversation Starter:** How does knowing that Jesus is alive bring you joy?

**Monthly Memory Verse:** *Always be joyful because you belong to the Lord. I will say it again. Be joyful!* • Philippians 4:4 NIV

## 1. Take a Snapshot

*Application Activity*

**What You Need:** Posterboard (one per small group), Tape, Sticky notes (one per kid), Writing supplies

### What You Do:

- Draw a large cross on the posterboard. Tape it to the wall.
- Give each kid a sticky note and something to write with.
- Ask kids to think of something in their life that they need Jesus' help with.
- Instruct them to write it on the sticky note (or draw a symbol for it if they're more comfortable with that).
- Explain that we're going to give these things to God, trusting that He is writing a bigger story.
- Invite them to stick their notes onto the cross on the wall.
- Gather around the cross.
- Ask kids you are willing to share what they wrote.
- **Say:** "God sees every one of these sticky notes. He knows it's hard. But just like He turned the sadness of the cross into the joy of the resurrection, He is working toward that good story you are living in. Let's trust Him with our stories."

## 2. Bible Story Extension

*Bible Story Review*

**What You Need:** Small stuffed animals (5 per bin), Carpet tape

### What You Do:

- Divide the kids into pairs.
- Give each pair of kids a stuffed animal.
- Explain that they are to walk from the start line to the finish line and back, holding the stuffed animal between their backs the whole time.
- Encourage them to work together to keep it from falling!
- If it falls, allow them to pick it up again and keep going.
- After the race, gather the kids and ask:
  - "Is it easier to walk alone or with a friend?"
  - "In our story, who was walking with the two friends?" (*Jesus!*)
  - "Did they know it was Jesus at first?" (*No.*)
  - "How did they feel when they realized it was Him?" (*Joyful! Happy!*)

- **Say:** “Great teamwork! Walking with friends makes the journey better. Cleopas and his friend went on a seven-mile trek from Jerusalem to a town called Emmaus. They were sad at the beginning of their walk talking about how Jesus had died, then someone joined them. It was Jesus! But they didn’t know it was Him. Jesus asked them, “*What are you talking about as you walk along?*” (Luke 24:17 NIV). As they all walked together, Jesus explained the bigger story. He explained that He had to die and rise again to rescue everyone. When the friends understood the bigger story, they had so much joy! And just like them, **you can have joy because there’s a bigger story.**”

### 3. Discussion Questions

- If you were walking with Jesus, what questions would you ask Him?
- Why do you think Jesus chose to show up right in the middle of the two friends’ sadness instead of waiting until they felt better?
- How do you think Cleopas and his friend were different after their walk with Jesus compared to before it?
- How does knowing that Jesus is alive help you have joy—even in confusing or painful times?
- What is one way you can look for God’s bigger story this week?

### 4. Memory Verse Roll

*Memory verse activity*

**What You Need:** a soft ball (one per group)

**What You Do:**

- Give every kid a Bible.
- Invite them to look up Philippians 4:4.
- Guide kids to sit in a large circle.
- Give one kid the ball.
- Lead kids to say the verse word by word (with help as needed) as they pass to ball to the person next to them. Play a few times, getting faster each time.
- Try it again, but instead of passing the ball, roll the ball to someone across the circle saying one word of the verse at a time.
- Play as time allows, encouraging kids to say the verse faster each round.

## AT THE 5- MINUTE CALL: PRAY

- Ask, "Does anyone have any prayer requests or things they want to thank God for from this week? (*Let the kids share their prayer requests and praises*)"
- "God, thank You that You see the whole picture. Thank You that You're writing a good story. We give You these hard things today. Help us to trust You. Fill us with Your joy, and remind us that You are with us, You will help us, and You are always working for good. We love You, and pray these things in Jesus' name. Amen."
- Remind the kids that when they leave, their parents should get a text message on their phones telling them what we learned this week. AND they will get a link to an activity they can do at home and bring back for a PRIZE!

**PARENT PICK UP POINT:** As adults arrive, ask the kids to tell them how Jesus brings him/her joy.